

Creating Mnemonics Resource Guide

Step 1: Assign A Hero To Each Tone

See the following for examples:

- **High tone** (ˊ)—a teacher setting high standards
- **Rising tone** (ˊ)—an astronaut rising above the clouds in a rocket
- **Low tone** (ˇ)—a monkey swinging from branch to branch similar to the dip in the tone mark
- **Falling tone** (ˋ)—a diver descending below the water

Now create your own in the table below. It can be any person, animal, or character that you choose. The hero you choose for each tone only needs to be memorable to you. Provide the reason for your choice in the column on the right and apply them consistently for all the characters you learn.

Tone	Hero	Tone's Association With Hero
High (1 st)		
Rising (2 nd)		
Low (3 rd)		
Falling (4 th)		

Step 2: Choose An English Equivalent Or Chinese Homophone For The Sound

Examples of English equivalents: cheat for qī (欺); urban for yù (域); jungle for zhēng (征)

The sound equivalent doesn't have to be exact, just close enough to trigger your memory.

Examples of Chinese homophone equivalents: 七 for 欺; 遇 for 域; 争 for 征

Step 3: Analyze Components That Make Up The Character

Break down the character into its component parts and use them as keywords in the mnemonic you create.

Character To Learn	Character's Component Parts To Be Used In Mnemonic
间	门 + 日

岛	鸟 + 山
缚	纟 + 甫 + 寸

Step 4: Incorporate The Character's Meaning Into The Mnemonic

Include the meaning of the character in the mnemonic to aid recall. For example, the definition of 间 is:

jiàn, space; be separated from; to separate, "drive a wedge between," sow discord; *jiān*, between; a measure-word for rooms

Step 5: Assemble The Mnemonic

Put together the hero, sound equivalent, components, and definition into a mnemonic for 间.

Character	间
Hero	Diver
Sound Equivalent	English: <u>g</u> ently / Chinese: 见
Character's Components	门 + 日 Door + Sun
Character's Meaning	<i>jiàn</i> , space; be separated from; to separate, "drive a wedge between," sow discord; <i>jiān</i> , between; a measure-word for rooms
Assembled Mnemonic (using first definition)	English sound equivalent: The diver <u>g</u> ently opened the door to the outside as the sun's rays streamed into the space . Chinese sound equivalent: The diver opened the door to the outside and <u>saw</u> the sun's rays streaming into the space .

Step 6: Add To Anki And Review

Create an Anki flashcard for your mnemonic and review regularly. Revise the mnemonic if you fail to remember it after multiple reviews.